GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
AIDS CHILDREN IN COASTAL AREAS
Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in view of alarming increase in the incidents of sexual exploitation of helpless children in coastal areas in the country, the cases of HIV infection/ AIDS amongst them are increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the total number of said children suffering from HIV/AIDS ;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No Sir. However, the details of reported AIDS cases among children in the country for the last three years is as below:

Year	Reported Cases in Children
2002	759
2003	1013
2004	1419

Some of these may be because of sexual abuse of children.

(b) & (c): As per the information available with National AIDS Control Organization as on 31st June,2005, out of the total number of 1,11,608 AIDS cases reported, 4854 were in the age group of 0-14. Some of these may be due to sexual exploitation.

(d): In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components: -

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.

- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).

- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections, free Antiretroviral therapy in designated centres and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.

- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical Resource Groups, operational research and Programme management.

- A new paediatric initiative has been taken by NACO by setting up a Child Rights Division which will look into all child and HIV/AIDS issues, including exploitation.